

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I'm just going to rise very briefly and indicate, in fact, be voting for this. I think the revolution we have out there in the area of information that is available and is needed by Nebraskans, whether for their personal enjoyment, for their education or for their businesses, is so great we have to continue to support this. I noticed in the dialogue between Senator Robak and Senator Moore there was a question as to why this is needed. Now I do not have an accurate answer to that question, but based on my experience dealing with people in the education arena I'm quite certain it's because of the same thing that happened in the area of education and that is as more people become aware that information is available to them electronically, more and more people want to use it. I know for instance in the area of education communication, last year we as a Legislature appropriated a sum of money. I think it was 10,000, \$15,000, something in that neighborhood to fund one 800 number, assuming that that would be more than enough. It took about two months once teachers realized what was available to them for them to use up all of that money. The revolution we have in information and its access via telecommunications is so great, we as a state are either going to have to belly up and pay for it or we're going to find that our state is left behind. So I will, in fact, be supporting Senator Robak's amendment and I'm pleased that she brought it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Chairman, I just wanted to stress again that this is a partnership between these entities and that the Library Commission just wants to increase its share of the partnership. And I would like to say that, just add that I know that we're trying to cut budgets and add to the budget, but we can't look at this as false economy because this is for the future. It's for our children and for our grandchildren. I just ask that the bill be advanced, amendment be advanced.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President, I am going to rise to